

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the  
Western District of ArkansasBy  
DOUGLAS F. YOUNG, Clerk  
JAN 07 2019FILED  
WESTERN DISTRICT COURT  
US DISTRICT COURT

In the Matter of the Search of )  
 (Briefly describe the property to be searched )  
 or identify the person by name and address) )  
 csnebling@gmail.com and/or Android IMEI: )  
 357093091312557 or Android IMEI: )  
 358071083910967 possessed by Google, Inc. )

Case No.

19cm3

## APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH WARRANT

I, a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government, request a search warrant and state under penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that there is now concealed on the following person or property located in the Western District of Arkansas (identify the person or describe property to be searched and give its location): See "Attachment A"

This court has authority to issue this warrant under 18 U.S.C. §§ 2703(c)(1)(A) and 2711 (3)(A) and Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 41

The person or property to be searched, described above, is believed to conceal (identify the person or describe the property to be seized): See "Attachment B"

The basis for the search under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(c) is (check one or more):

- ☒ evidence of a crime;  
☒ contraband, fruits of crime, or other items illegally possessed;  
☒ property designed for use, intended for use, or used in committing a crime;  
☐ a person to be arrested or a person who is unlawfully restrained.

The search is related to a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251/2252, and the application is based on these facts: Production and Possession of Child Pornography-See "Attachment C"

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.

☐ Delayed notice of      days (give exact ending date if more than 30 days:                     ) is requested under 18 U.S.C. § 3103a, the basis of which is set forth on the attached sheet.

Thomas Wooten TFO  
 Applicant's signature

Thomas Wooten, HSI TFO  
 Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 1/7/19

Erin L. Wiedemann  
 Judge's signature

City and state: Fayetteville, Arkansas

Erin L. Wiedemann, US Magistrate Judge  
 Printed name and title

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Property to Be Searched**

This warrant applies to information associated with the Google Drive user ID(s) or email address [csnebling@gmail.com](mailto:csnebling@gmail.com), as well as any and all account information for Android IMEI: 357093091312557 with telephone number (479) 347-1242 and Android IMEI: 358071083910967 with telephone number (479) 256-2393; certain accounts that are stored at the premises controlled by Google, Inc. (Google, Inc.) **between the time period of January 1, 2018 until the present** that is stored at premises owned, maintained, controlled, or operated by Google Inc., 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, California 94043

**ATTACHMENT B**

**Particular Things to be Seized**

**I. Information to be disclosed by Google**

To the extent that the information described in Attachment A is within the possession, custody, or control of Google Inc. ("Google"), including any messages, records, files, logs, or information that have been deleted but are still available to Google, , Google is required to disclose the following information to the government for each user ID listed in Attachment A:

- (a) All contact and personal identifying information, including full name, user identification number, birth date, gender, contact e-mail addresses, Google passwords, Google security questions and answers, physical address (including city, state, and zip code), telephone numbers, screen names, websites, and other personal identifiers.
- (b) All activity logs for the account and all other documents showing the user's posts and other activities;
- (c) All photos and videos uploaded, distributed, received, or saved by that user ID;
- (d) All profile information, status updates, and contact lists associated with the accounts;
- (e) All other records of communications and messages made or received by the user;
- (f) All "check ins" and other location information;
- (g) All IP logs, including all records of the IP addresses that logged into the account;
- (h) All past and present lists of friends or contacts created by the account;

- (i) Any and All information deleted from the accounts but still recoverable by Google;
- (j) The length of service (including start date) and the means and source of any payments associated with the service (including any credit card or bank account number);
- (k) All privacy settings and other account settings, including privacy settings;

**II. Information to be seized by the government**

All information described above in Section I that constitutes fruits, evidence and instrumentalities of violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2251 and Section 2252 involving the suspects outlined herein since **January 1 2018 until present**, including, for each user ID identified on Attachment A, information pertaining to the following matters:

- (a) Included, but not limited to, any and all sexually explicit images of minors
- (b) Evidence indicating how and when the Google Hangout account was accessed or used, to determine the chronological and geographic context of account access, use, and events relating to the crime under investigation and to the Google account owner;
- (c) Evidence indicating the Google Hangout account owner's state of mind as it relates to the crime under investigation;
- (d) The identity of the person(s) who created or used the user ID, including records that help reveal the whereabouts of such person(s).

- (e) The identity of the person(s) who communicated with the user ID about matters relating to the sexual exploitation of children or involving nude images of children being sent and received via the Internet or other means.
- (f) Any and all conversations, contacts, messages, emails, posts and/or chats involving the solicitation or enticement of minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct and/or encouraging minors to produce images or videos of themselves nude or engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Any and all conversations with others, adult or minors, concerning the sexual exploitation of children or the sending or receiving of images of minors, nude, clothed, or otherwise.



**ATTACHMENT C**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

**FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS**

STATE OF ARKANSAS :  
 :  
 : ss. Christopher NEBLING  
 :  
 COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

## Affidavit in Support of Application for Search Warrant

I, Thomas Wooten, a Task Force Officer with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI),  
being duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

## INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND

1. I make this affidavit in support of an application for a search warrant for information related to Google email accounts: [csnebling@gmail.com](mailto:csnebling@gmail.com), as well as any and all account information for Android IMEI: 357093091312557 with telephone number (479) 347-1242 and Android IMEI: 358071083910967 with telephone number (479) 256-2393; certain accounts that are stored at the premises controlled by Google, Inc. (Google, Inc.), an e-mail, file storage and synchronization service provider headquartered at 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, California 74043. The information to be searched is described in the following paragraphs and in Attachment A. This affidavit is made in support of an application for a search warrant under 18 U.S.C. §§ 2703(a), 2703(b)(1)(A) and 2703(c)(1)(A) to require Google, Inc., to disclose to the government copies of the information (including the content of communications) further described in Section I of Attachment B. Upon receipt of the information described in Section I of

Attachment B, government-authorized persons will review that information to locate the items described in Section II of Attachment B.

2. I am a Task Force Officer with the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations ("HSI"), currently assigned to the Assistant Special Agent in Charge Office in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Since June of 2000, I have been a police officer / detective with the Springdale, Arkansas Police Department. As such, I am authorized by the State of Arkansas to apply for and execute search warrants, arrest warrants and other instruments of the court. As a police officer / detective, I have received specialized training in matters related to criminal investigation, specifically but not limited to the area of sexual exploitation of minors, drug distribution, and money laundering. Since August of 2017, I have been assigned as a Task Force Officer to Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), a component of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. As a Task Force Officer (TFO) with HSI I primarily investigate crimes related to the sexual exploitation of minors. Prior to joining HSI, I attended a 40-hour training session covering Title 8, Title 18, Title 19 and Title 21 of the United States Code. As such, I am a law enforcement officer within the meaning of Section 115(c)(1) of Title 18 United States Code, who is authorized by law or Government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation and/or prosecution of any violation of Federal and State criminal law. Since joining HSI as a taskforce officer, your affiant has received training in Cellebrite Mobile Forensics, Passmark Software/OSForensics Triage tools, and has obtained certifications as a Cellebrite Certified Operator, Cellebrite Certified Physical Analyst and OSForensics Triage Operator.

3. This Affidavit is intended to show merely that there is sufficient probable cause for the requested warrant and does not set forth all of my knowledge about this matter.

4. Based on my training and experience and the facts as set forth in this affidavit, there is probable cause to believe that evidence constituting violations of Title 18, United States Code,

Section 2251/2252/2252A “Production and Possession of Child Pornography” are currently present on the item described as Attachment A.

5. There is also probable cause to search the information described in Attachment A for evidence, instrumentalities, contraband/ fruits of these crimes further described in Attachment B.

### **DEFINITIONS AND AUTHORITY**

6. This investigation concerns alleged violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252/2252A, specifically Possession of Child Pornography and Production of Child Pornography.

7. Under Title 18 U.S.C. Section 2251/2252/2252A it is a federal crime for any person to knowingly possesses child pornography as that term is defined by 18 United States Code, Section 2256.

8. The term “minor,” as used herein, is defined pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(1) as “any person under the age of eighteen years.”

### **PROBABLE CAUSE**

9. On or about November 20, 2018, Springdale Officers were dispatched to 608 West Bailey Avenue in Springdale for a Rape report. As result of the subsequent investigation, Christopher NEBLING was arrested on state charges for the offense of Rape. At the time of his arrest, officers confiscated as evidence, a Samsung Galaxy Cellular Device with an Android IMEI: 357093091312557 with telephone number (479) 347-1242 and an LG Aristo 2 cellular device with an Android IMEI: 358071083910967 with telephone number (479) 256-2393. The cellular devices were confiscated as evidence, due to the 17-year-old victim claiming that NEBLING took nude photographs of her during their sexual encounter. On or about December 3, 2018, a search warrant was obtained to search both cellular devices.



10. Pursuant to the warrant, on or about December 6, 2018, your affiant conducted an examination of both cellular devices using the Cellebrite UFED 4PC forensic tool. Said forensic examination revealed multiple images of what appeared to be an approximately 10-year-old female as she slept. The images depicted an adult males hand pulling down the clothing of the minor, exposing her vagina, breasts, and buttocks. Your Affiant viewed all of the files depicting the minor and described three of these files as follows:

(a) Filename hash: 595e0192a6c31004e7dd7489fdaf26c1f941af41795e061d3959f31242b48cfe

Filepath:

userdata(ExtX)/Root/data/com.google.android.apps.photos/cache/glide\_cache/595e0192a6c31004e7dd7489fdaf26c1f941af41795e061d3959f31242b48cfe (From LG Aristo2 device).

This image is of a sleeping approximate ten (10) year old female. The image itself depicts an adult male's hand pulling the pants down of the sleeping minor, exposing her vagina to the camera. The minor's shirt is also raised to shoulder level, exposing the minor's breasts.

(b) Filename hash: 4bfa1bc22f9af402bb14ad31d3d3407890bd0e2aabcea05bd98b701a00b59bf8

Filepath:

Userdata(ExtX)/Root/data/com.google.android.apps.photos/cache/glide\_cache/4bfa1bc22f9af402bb14ad31d3d3407890bd0e2aabcea05bd98b701a00b59bf8 (From LG Aristo2 device).

This image is of the same approximately 10-year-old female. The image is a close up of the minor's vagina, taken as an adult male's hand can be seen holding down her pants to expose her genitalia to the camera.

(c) Filename hash: 8404057974238167779.0

Filepath:

SamsungGSM\_SMN950UGalaxyNote8.zip/sdcard/Android/data/com.sec.android.gallery3d/cache/micro/8404057974238167779.0 (From Samsung Note 8 device).

This image is of the same minor female. The image itself depicts a close up of the minor's vagina. Again, an adult male's hand can be seen holding down the minor's clothing to expose her vaginal area for the camera.

11. During the investigation, law enforcement was able to determine that the above described child pornography images were taken inside NEBLING's residence, located in Springdale, Arkansas. Law enforcement subsequently positively identified the minor as a 10-

year-old female believed to be residing with NEBLING. Based on such information, officers contacted NEBLING's wife, who also positively identified the minor in the images as her 10-year-old daughter.

12. Consequently, law enforcement located NEBLING, who had bonded out of jail on his previous Rape arrest. During a post-Miranda interview, NEBLING admitted to taking partially nude images of the 10-year-old female as she slept. Additionally, he admitted to surreptitiously photographing the 10-year-old getting in and out of the shower over the last approximately one-year period.

13. Subsequent to NEBLING's admissions, your Affiant reviewed the images from both of NEBLING'S devices. Of note, your Affiant observed several of the same images on both devices, which, based on your affiants training and experience, is indicative of a cloud-based storage account that syncs multiple devices together. As such, your affiant was able to determine that both cellular devices in-fact were connected to a Google account associated with the email address of [csnebling@gmail.com](mailto:csnebling@gmail.com) and both devices were found to have numerous Google applications installed including, Gmail, and Google Drive.<sup>1</sup> Forensically, your affiant was also able to determine that the Google Drive Account was set up to automatically backup and sync images taken with devices connected to the Google Drive account via the email [csnebling@gmail.com](mailto:csnebling@gmail.com).

14. The fact that images were automatically saved to Google Drive and synced with respect to the images taken is likewise supported by the file paths showing where the images were stored on each device was different. The Samsung device showed a file path of "Samsung

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<sup>1</sup> Per Wikipedia, **Google Drive** is a [file storage](#) and [synchronization service](#) developed by [Google](#). Launched on April 24, 2012, Google Drive allows users to store files on their servers, synchronize files across devices, and [share files](#).

GSM\_SMN950UGalaxyNote8.zip/sdcard/Android/data/com.sec.android.gallery3d/cache/large/.”

While the same exact same images located on the LG device showed to be stored within the area labeled, “google.android.apps.photos/cache/glide\_cache.” As such, these exact same images were not taken separately with each respective device, but instead taken with one device and transferred to the other device. Again, based on the file path information from the photos on each device, it is your Affiant’s opinion based on his training and experience that many of the images were originally taken on the Samsung device and were synced to the LG device via the Google Drive account. On December 7, 2018, a preservation letter was sent to Google in effort to recover any further evidence that could still be present on NEBLING’S Google account.

#### **BACKGROUND CONCERNING GOOGLE DRIVE**

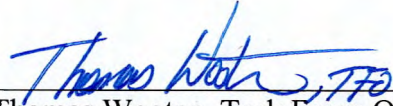
15. Based on my knowledge and experience and information obtained from other law enforcement personnel with training and experience in this area, the following is known about Google Drive accounts:

- a. Google Drive is a file storage and synchronization service created by Google. It allows users to store files in the cloud, share files, and edit documents, spreadsheets, and presentations with collaborators.
- b. For Google Drive to synchronize files between the user’s computer and Google Drive storage, the Google Drive ‘client’ software must be running on the users computer. The client communicates with Google Drive to synchronize data.
- c. Google Drive can be accessed offline on the Google Chrome browser via a Chrome application, which can be installed from the Chrome Web Store. Documents, spreadsheets, presentations and drawings can also be viewed and edited offline through standalone Chrome applications.
- d. Google gives every user 15 GB of online storage space, which is shared across three of its most-used services, Google Drive, Gmail, and Google+ Photos.
- e. Google Drive incorporates a system of file sharing in which the creator of a file or

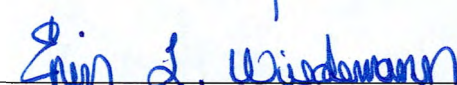
folder is, by default, its owner. The owner can regulate the public visibility of the file or folder. Files or folders can be shared privately with particular users having a Google account, using their @gmail.com email addresses. Sharing files with users not having a Google account requires making them accessible to anybody with the link. This generates a secret URL for the file, which may be shared via email, blogs, etc. Files and folders can also be made public on the internet, which means that they can be indexed by search engines and thus can be found and accessed by anyone.

### CONCLUSION

16. Therefore, your affiant respectfully requests this Court to issue a search warrant authorizing the search of Google Drive account, [csnebling@gmail.com](mailto:csnebling@gmail.com), as well as any and all account information for Android IMEI: 357093091312557 with telephone number (479) 347-1242 and Android IMEI: 358071083910967 with telephone number (479) 256-2393, which is controlled and maintained by Google, Inc., as described in Attachment A, to seize the evidence, fruits, and instrumentalities described in Attachment B, which individually or collectively constitute violation(s) of **Title 18 United States Code, Sections 2251 (Production of Child Pornography) and 2252A(a)(5)(B) (Possession of Child Pornography)**.

  
Thomas Wooten, Task Force Officer  
Homeland Security Investigations

Affidavit subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of January 2019.

  
Erin L. Wiedemann  
United States Magistrate Judge